



2022

ANNUAL REPORT



A message from the **COMMISSION PRESIDENT**

As a city, Sandusky has accomplished a great deal in 2022. The contents of this Annual Report are a testament to those accomplishments and accolades. Each one of the ordinances, negotiations and actions taken by city commission and staff worked to advance the prosperity of Sandusky and to enhance the quality of life for residents.

When I think about 2022, I think about the big moments our city prevailed, but I also think about the small, every day moments that brought our community together. It is these every day things, like fielding questions from residents, helping people navigate through organizational channels to solve problems, addressing needs in neighborhood infrastructure, meeting a business person for coffee or listening to a proposal for a new and exciting business venture. Each one of these small moments add up to the big accomplishments that very recently made our city the "Best Small Coastal Town in America". I know, this occurred in 2023, but I find myself proclaiming this award so much right now. It is worth talking about, because the community engagement in 2022 is what has made us the best.

In the spirit of collaboration, Erie County and Sandusky partnered to bring books to Sandusky children through the Imagination Library for the next five years. Kids from birth to five years old can enroll in this free program founded by country music legend Dolly Parton. Participants receive a book every month from the program, which fosters literacy, connection with parent and caregivers and improves lifetime success rates for kids. I write about this specific accomplishment even though it is small in dollars invested because I believe it will be remarkably impactful to the youth of Sandusky and the benefits will be seen as these young people become productive adults.

The commissioners also embarked on awarding a bid to begin building a new Justice Center for the city of Sandusky. Just a few short years after moving City Hall to its new location, our civil and criminal justice offices are ready to see a transformation that required engagement from all stakeholders. We believe that the finished project will help our safety services and our courts to operate more efficiently to provide our residents with services when they need them the most.

Last year, the city commission also approved the purchase of land at Mills Creek Golf Course, contracted to make Mills School useful to the city Parks and Recreation department, awarded grants to Pipe Creek Wharf and Saucy Brew Works. We also negotiated with Cedar Point Police to bolster the safety and security of the park for residents and millions of tourists each year.

These items were just a few of the ways the commission and staff of Sandusky have responded to the needs of residents. On these and other issues, we have held countless public forums, asked residents to weigh in on the direction of many projects affecting their neighborhoods, where they work, play and live. At every turn, we have listened to what our residents are saying. We have encouraged engagement and we know we are unstoppable when we work together. Each one of us has created a vision for Sandusky that continues to make us the best of the best, a place where everyone gets a seat at the table. I am proud to write this letter today, as someone who has a front row seat to the "Best Small Coastal Town in America". But I am not alone. I have saved a seat for you.




Richard Brady
Commission President

CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION

All of the accomplishments listed in the 2022 annual report were made possible by the support of the City Commission and Administration.

CITY COMMISSION

- Purchased 34.833 acres of Mills Creek Land, which is used for a portion of holes #3 through #7 for Mills Creek Golf Course. This land was previously being leased.
- Entered into a three-year lease with Sandusky City Schools for use of the Mills School building located at 1918 Mills Street. This building now houses Sandusky Rec @ Mills.
- Entered into a contract with Mosser Construction, Inc., for the construction of the Justice Center Project.
- Entered into a contract with OHM Advisors for professional design services for the Sandusky Skate Park – Design Development Project.
- Approved legislation recognizing Juneteenth (June 19) as an observed holiday for all city employees.
- City Commission committed up to \$42,000 to help fund the Erie County Imagination Library, an affiliate of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, for five years. The funds will help provide a free monthly book to children from birth to age five.
- Entered into a contract with Cedar Point to provide law enforcement/police services for Cedar Point beginning April 1, 2023. Cedar Point will reimburse the city for 12 month's salary and benefits for five police officers.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION (DEI)

- Contracted with Bottom Line Consulting to conduct a DEI organizational evaluation and assessment.
- Developed a DEI strategic action plan which rests on the four pillars of Culture, Career, Community and Consistency.
- Established an employee Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Team.
- Provided representation on the Minority Business Empowerment Team (MBET), including serving as a steering committee member for the 2022 BGSU Firelands Business Symposium "What's Your Impact" event, collaborated with Huntington

Bank's "Lift Local," and assisted in the planning and implementation of MBET's 1st annual Black Business Pioneer Awards ceremony.

FINANCE

- The city received the second payment of the COVID relief funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. The city was awarded a total of \$18,091,098, which was split equally between 2021 and 2022.
- After paying down \$3,155,000 of our debt, the 2022 various purpose notes were issued for \$4.135M with a net interest cost of 3.207% to Oppenheimer.
- The City Commission passed legislation, in partnership with Cedar Point, to increase the Admission Tax rate to 8% effective January 1, 2022. Previously the rate was 4%. The city collected a record \$9,440,031 in admission tax in 2022.
- The Commission passed legislation, in partnership with Cedar Point, to institute an 8% parking tax rate. This generated \$370,351 in revenue in 2022.
- The total amount of general fund revenue collected in 2022 was a new record amount of \$31,914,787.
- The property and casualty insurance annual premium was \$355,000 for the period beginning December 1, 2022. This was a savings of \$95,000 compared to the 2019 renewal figures of \$440,000.
- The Justice Center rehabilitation project moved forward in 2022. The City issued \$6 million of debt to finance the initial stages of this project. KeyBank Capital Markets was awarded the note, with a net interest cost of 3.995%.

IT

- Completed a Security Pen Test and had actionable improvements to fortify network security.
- Switched the city's domain name to @cityofsandusky.com, moving away from the previously used @ci.sandusky.oh.us.



CITY COMMISSION & ADMINISTRATION

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Hired 27 full-time employees including eight firefighters and five police officers.
- Hired over 45 seasonal and part-time employees.
- The Civil Service Commission approved the Police Department to hire lateral transfers.
- Participated in three internships, two from Sandusky High School and one college intern.
- Obtained LocalGovU, a new employee training platform designed for professional development.

LAW

- Prepared 267 ordinances and 66 resolutions.
- Prosecuted 6,460 criminal filings in the Sandusky Municipal Court.
- The City responded to a total of 389 requests for public records in 2022.

FLEET MAINTENANCE

- 1,314 repair orders completed
- \$113,429.93 brought in through 25 government deals auctions.

- Two new HD trucks, one new marked police car, one pick-up truck and one small loader were put into service.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

• Residential Permits

578 – Plan approvals
851 – Inspections
\$60,208.30 – Receipts

• Commercial Permits

345 – Plan approvals
638 – Inspections
\$177,050.81 – Receipts

• Public Works Permits

54 – Excavation in Right-of-Way permits
11 – Floodplain permits
39 – Sidewalk/Approach permits
35 – Stormwater permits
39 – Utility Taps
106 – Utility Right-of-Way Permits

• Zoning/Planning Permits

Fence permits: Commercial – 4 / Residential – 65
14 – Shed permits
37 – Sign permits

RETIREMENTS

A special thank you to the City of Sandusky employees who retired in 2022:

32
YEARS

Jeff Danevich
Fire Department

35
YEARS

Dan Hedberg
Cemetery

33
YEARS

Jeff Meinert
Sewer Plant

22
YEARS

Erik Mohr
Police Department

25
YEARS

Dave Oprzadek
Fire Department

6
YEARS

Alfred Percival
Water Plant

30
YEARS

Tom Speir
Greenhouse

33
YEARS

Steve Sweeting
Sewer Plant

GRANT FUNDING / PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Various grants were awarded for projects during the course of 2022. Thank you to our local, state, and federal partners for making this possible:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Erie County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Erie County Solid Waste Management District
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)
- Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA)
- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC)
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)
- U.S. Department of Transportation

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Ann and John Arnold of Dockside Accommodations - \$100 donation to Sandusky Greenhouse
- Barnes Nursey, Inc. – In-kind holiday tree services
- Barbara & Bill Biehl – Volunteer services at various parks
- Karen Bennett – In-kind silver maple at Oakland Cemetery to honor Good and Brownell families
- Boy Scout Troop #8 – Placed flags at Veteran grave sites at Oakland Cemetery for Memorial Day
- Commons of Providence Care Center – In-kind chili provided to Streets and Utilities staff
- Community Celebrations Council – In-kind holiday lights
- Construction Equipment & Supply - In-kind lift for holiday decorating
- Kathleen Dudek – Volunteer services at various parks
- Nanette Guss – Volunteer services at various parks
- Mary Jane Hahler – Volunteer services at various parks
- Mason Hayberger - \$897.03 materials and labor to build a bridge at Kiwanis Park
- Chad Hepp – In-kind mulch and volunteer services at various city parks and properties
- Jeff Krabill and the Ohio State University alumni association – In-kind plants, flowers, mulch and volunteer services at Facer Park
- Barb Manner – In-kind zinnias and volunteer services at Lions Park
- Tom Patterson – In-kind holiday tree
- Sandusky Central Catholic School – In-kind three Crimson King Maples for Earth Day
- Stein Hospice – In-kind holiday tree and lights
- Megan and Matt Stookey – Volunteer services at gateway triangle on Venice Road
- Sharon Stookey – Volunteer services at various parks

COMMEMORATIVE BENCH SALES

Purchased by:

- Ann M. Bahnsen
- Hazel Foley
- Friends of the Sandusky Greenhouse
- David O'Neil
- Paula and Tom York

In Honor of:

Jules Bahnsen
Harry Foley
Friends of the Sandusky Greenhouse
Dr. Daniel L. Kaser, D.D.S.
Susan D. Oswald



VIBRANT CITY

Vibrant City strategies are designed to strengthen Sandusky's regional economy by leveraging existing assets, partnering to create new opportunities, and supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses.

REVITALIZATION OF VACANT BUILDINGS & BLIGHTED LAND

- The City continued addressing blighted properties that required demolition. In 2022, the City of Sandusky utilized CDBG funding to demolish four properties:
 - 1228 Osborne Street
 - 1817 Pierce Street
 - 402 Hendry Street
 - 1922 Clay Street (garage)



▲ 1228 Osborne Street Demo



▲ 1817 Pierce Street Demo

- The City of Sandusky was awarded \$500,000 from the US EPA to undertake environmental assessment and other redevelopment planning at brownfield locations throughout the city.



SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURS & SMALL BUSINESSES

- The Economic Development Incentive Committee approved 12 grants, committing a total of \$385,500 to the following:
 - TrueGrit Fitness, LLC (dba: TrueGrit Fitness)
 - Tambo Entertainment, LLC (dba: Clubhouse No. 3)
 - Boeckling Historic Properties, LLC (dba: The Boeckling Club)
 - Lake Erie Fisherman, LLC (dba: Lake Erie Fisherman)
 - Bait House Brewery, LLC (dba: Bait House Brewery)
 - Paper Street Holdings, LLC (property address: 603 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky)
 - Sandusky Massotherapy, LLC (dba: Sandusky Massotherapy)
 - Saucy Brew Works Sandusky LLC (dba: Saucy Brew Works)
 - GSS LLC (dba: Schmid Design)
 - MALISCRA LLC (dba: Manor Motel)
 - Lockwood Land Company LLC (dba: The Hubbard House)
 - Pipe Creek Holdings LLC (dba: Pipe Creek Wharf)

Hogrefe Building, day and night ▼



- Approved and executed one new enterprise zone tax abatement agreement for Aldridge, LLC – Ordinance No. 22-235 which authorized a 75% real property tax abatement on the value of new improvements for a ten year period. The company purchased the condemned multi-family building at 201 Fulton Street, Sandusky. The company plans to redevelop the building into an eight-unit AirBNB facility at a total cost of over \$500,000.
- Authorized amendments to Enterprise Zone Tax Abatement and Economic Development Grant agreements to allow the historic, eight story Feick building to be renovated for primarily residential rather than office purposes. As a result, the Marous Development Group proceeded with the over \$10 million development of 42 market-rate apartments in the building. The redevelopment project is set to be completed in 2023.
- Authorized a special assessment on the property at 333 Washington Street, Sandusky in collaboration with the Sandusky Energy Special Improvement District. The funds will be used to undertake energy-efficiency renovations as part of the \$2.5 million redevelopment of the historic building into a boutique hotel called The Washington.



LIVABLE CITY

Sandusky's neighborhoods will benefit from a comprehensive approach that improves housing stock, eliminates blight, invests in neighborhood amenities and builds strong safety programs.

FOCUS ON IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOOD INFRASTRUCTURE

- In partnership with private contractors, Forestry planted 59 new trees, trimmed 524 trees and removed 222 dead trees. The city was also recognized as a Tree City USA community for the 32nd consecutive year.
- Performed full-service lead line replacement at 31 residential properties.
- Completed annual sewer lining projects which assist with maintaining sewer infrastructure underground that accepts sewer flows from properties and takes it to the sewer plant for processing. The lining process helps extend the useful life of the infrastructure, increases pipe capacity by speeding up flow velocities and minimizes the amount of above ground work. This work also reduces sewer maintenance's regular work on these lines.
- Completed Sewer Plant maintenance projects such as the Backup Generator Repair project which is crucial to keep our plant in good operation. Providing a fully functioning and safe sewer system to our community is imperative.
- The City moved forward with their first water main lining project along Tiffin Avenue. Due to the nature of the existing water main crossing the Mills Creek bridge and the Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge, this section of water main was a good candidate for a lining project versus a traditional "open cutting" pipe replacement. The lining project included a cured-in-place pipe (CIPP), like previous sewer lining projects that the city has successfully completed, but the material used in water main projects are specifically designed for drinking water.
- Completion of several major capital improvement projects including:
 - 2022 Sewer Lining Project
 - Sewer Interceptor Cleaning Project
 - Cedar Point Wetlands, Phase I
 - Cedar Point Wetlands Phase 1, Stage 2 ▼



Senator Sherrod Brown touring the Sandusky Bay wetlands project off the Cedar Point Causeway. The wetlands will help clean water in the bay and provide a safe containment area for the US Army Corps to dump material dredged from the Sandusky Bay shipping channels.

- Shoreline Park Erosion Control and Marina Walkway
 - Big Island Water Works Bar Screen Project
 - Stop Piles for Jackson Street Pier
 - West Side Utility Project
 - Tiffin Avenue WL Lining
 - Meigs Street multi-use path and road way
 - Lion's Park Breakwater Study
 - Updated City Engineering Standards Drawings
 - Big Island Water Works Emergency VFD's at WTP
- Throughout the year, staff has strengthened relationships with the Erie County Health Department and Land Bank.
 - The partnership between the City of Sandusky and the Erie County Health Department continued into 2022. Staff worked on 90 Lead Based Paint and 17 Healthy Homes environmental reports.
 - The city entered into an agreement with the Erie County Health Department to remove lead paint for eligible city residents with the city providing up to \$94,000 in match money for eligible projects.
 - Staff worked with the Erie County Health Department to get money in clearance and demolition funds reimbursed through a partnership on the Ohio Lead Safe Home Fund. So far in 2022, \$24,000 is earmarked with an anticipation of more funds being designated with the upcoming CDBG project #5.
 - A collaborative effort was made regarding the Erie County Health Department's entrance way improvement project. The city agreed to buy the residential home located at 3201 W. Monroe Street and lease it to the Health Department eventually ending in a land transfer. The city will install a portion of the sidewalk coming from Superior Street to the complex. The Erie County Land Bank has agreed to pay for the demolition of the house. The house was demolished in 2022. A sidewalk will be installed down Superior Street.



▲ Before



▲ After

- The Erie County Land Bank committed to assisting the city with the demolition of the Dog House Bar, a non-conforming commercial structure located at 1002 W. Jefferson Street. The Land Bank agreed to cover the demolition costs of that project. The property was demolished in 2022.



LIVABLE CITY

IMPLEMENT HOUSING PROGRAMS TO MAINTAIN SUPPLY & STIMULATE DEMAND

- Committed nearly \$400,000 of new funds across the three grant programs.
- Leveraged over \$2.4 million in private construction investment and assisted in 20 home purchases (11 home purchases in 2021, 27 home purchases in 2020, 39 home purchases in 2019, 60 home purchases in 2018, 51 home purchases in 2017).
- Of the 20 homes purchased using the Home Purchase Assistance category:
 - 7 were previously vacant (4 in 2021, 11 in 2020, 18 in 2019, 27 in 2018, 23 in 2017)
 - 19 were purchased by first time homebuyers (7 in 2021, 17 in 2020, 33 in 2019, 52 in 2018, 25 in 2017)
 - 5 were purchased by residents moving from outside the city of Sandusky (6 in 2021, 8 in 2020, 15 in 2019, 24 in 2018, 22 in 2017)
- 123 total grants awarded (55 in 2021, 98 in 2020, 168 in 2019, 242 in 2018, 145 in 2017)
 - 20 purchase assistance for owner occupancy (11 in 2021, 27 in 2020, 39 in 2019, 60 in 2018, 51 in 2017)
 - 13 substantial redevelopment (8 in 2021, 16 in 2020, 22 in 2019, 21 in 2018, 10 in 2017)
 - 90 exterior repairs (36 in 2021, 55 in 2020, 107 in 2019, 161 in 2018, 91 in 2017)



803 W. Jefferson Street
before and after



1120 Sycamore Lane
before and after



- Approved 12 residential tax abatement projects subject to the new 10-year, 75% abatement program (20 in 2021, 11 in 2020), including:
 - 8 new single family residences (15 in 2021, 7 in 2020)
 - 1 addition (garage in 2022) to existing property (2 in 2021, 3 in 2020)
 - 3 residential renovations to existing property (3 in 2021, 1 in 2020)
- There were 33 deeds transferred to or from the City Land Bank for reutilization purposes (24 in 2021):
 - 17 properties sold for new development in the Cold Creek Crossing Sub Division
 - 5 properties sold for new development within the city
 - 10 properties sold for yard expansion



- 1 property sold for residential rehabilitation
- 16 property acquisitions through Sheriff Sale or forfeiture

4111 Cold Creek
Land Bank



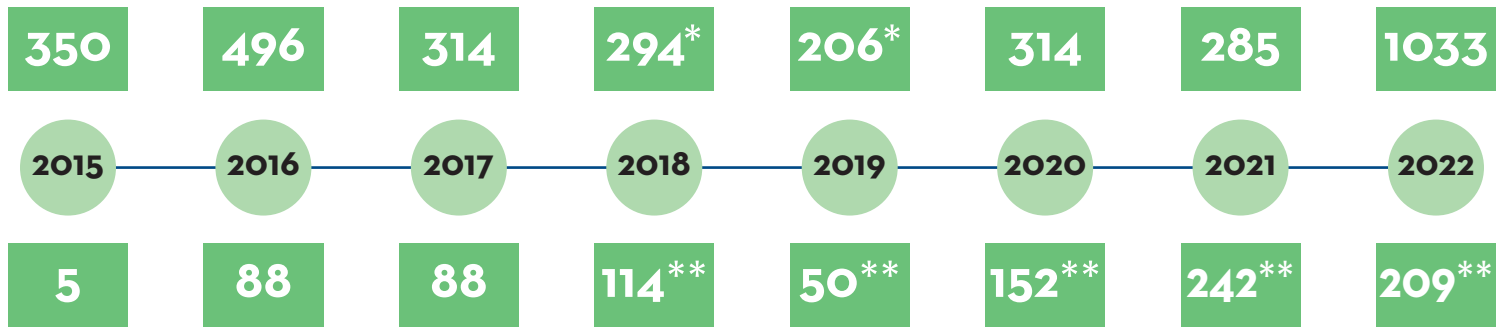
416 E. Market Street
new construction



412 Bay Breeze
tax abatement

BLIGHT ELIMINATION & CODE ENFORCEMENT

TALL GRASS ABATEMENTS



BOULEVARD & TRASH ABATEMENTS

* **2018:** Decrease due to public services maintaining Cold Creek and less issues
 * **2019:** Decrease due to less issues and almost 50% compliance rate

** **2018:** 65 abated by the City
 ** **2019:** 23 abated by the City
 ** **2020:** 56 abated by the City

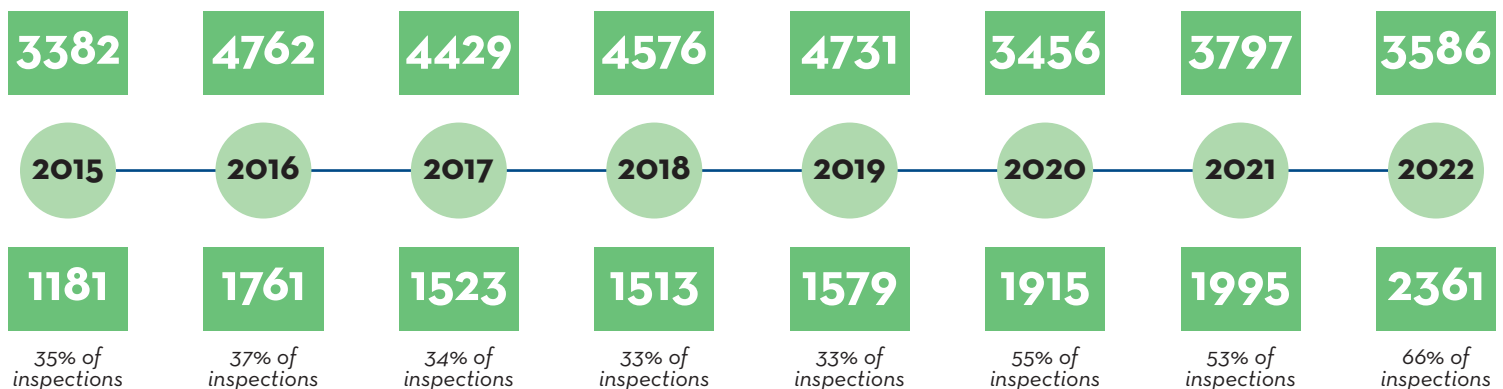
** **2021:** 91 abated by the City
 ** **2022:** 178 abated by the City

EXECUTION OF SEARCH WARRANTS FOR PROPERTY CLEAN-UPS



INSPECTIONS

2021 Inspections Inspections - 2,572 Triennial inspections - 1,134 Transient Inspections - 91
2022 Inspections Inspections - 2,332 Triennial inspections - 1,127 Transient Inspections - 127



VIOLATIONS



LIVABLE CITY

BUILD COMMUNITY

- The South Side Neighborhood Plan began, with four phases being completed in 2022. The four phases were Foundations, Visioning, Exploration and Choices.
 - Community engagement included three community meetings, four series of small-group stakeholder meetings, 300+ flyers handed out seeking community input, 30 steering committee members guiding the process, 120 community event attendees, and 104 survey respondents.
 - Six plan priorities were identified: Housing + Neighborhoods, Connectivity + Infrastructure, Parks + Open Spaces, Access + Services, Economic Prosperity, Branding + Beautification.



South Side Neighborhood Planning

- During 2022 the city supported, through CDBG, numerous public service agencies. *NOTE: The CDBG program year runs from June 30 – July 1. At the time this information is being gathered, many CDBG programs are still being carried out.*



- Erie County Senior Center received \$46,000 in 2022. 64 people were served and 6,133 meals were delivered.
- Father's Heart Church received \$16,000 for their After School Youth Program. At the end of 2022 at least 10 children had been participating in the program. It is anticipated that this number will continue to grow.

◀ After School Youth Program



Meals on Wheels Volunteer

- City Recreation staff completed a number of activities with the assistance of CDBG funding including:
 - Out of School Program
 - Make it Sew-Easy
 - Mohawk Music
 - Winter Break Camp
 - Midtown Supper Club
 - Lights, Camera, Action
 - In Motion with Morgan

- \$42,223 in CV funds were designated to three agencies:
 - OHgo received \$20,000 for their Food Locker Program, which launched in the fall of 2022.



▲ OHgo Food Locker Program



▲ Father's Heart Church Food Pantry Programs

- Father's Heart Church received \$10,000 for their youth food pantry program and \$8,223 for their general food pantry program.
- Care and Share received \$4,718.85 for their My Choice box program for LMI adults residing in the senior towers downtown. To date, 59 households have been served.
- Free programming with the help of local businesses sponsorships and partnerships continued to grow in popularity in 2022.
 - Added Yoga at the Pier through a partnership with Bayshore Counseling and Open Way Yoga. Free yoga was offered every Saturday from May through September at 7:00 am on the Jackson Street Pier.
 - Continued offering Pier Pressure, free Saturday morning workouts with a rotating schedule of local gyms/trainers.
 - Firelands Symphony Orchestra provided a Drumming with Dylan program on Wednesdays at the Pier. This adult-friendly program explored the different drumming and drinks from various cultures.
 - Partnered with Open Way Yoga, sponsored by Susan Lowell, to provide Tai Chi on Wednesdays at 11:00 am January through February.
- Safety Town, funded by the Wightman-Wieber Foundation, returned with 101 participants. Over 250 family, friends and community members attended the graduation. Partnerships included: Sandusky Police, Sandusky Fire, Humane Society of Erie County, Erie County Sheriff, American Red Cross, Sandusky Schools and STS, OHM and Associates, and Sandusky Rotary.



Safety Town Graduation ▲



◀ Midtown Supper Club



LIVABLE CITY



SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

POLICE

- Officers continued to place a daily emphasis on community policing. The Officers conducted daily patrols of the neighborhoods; stopped and talked to residents, played games with children, and walked the neighborhoods. In 2022, Officers conducted thousands of neighborhood, park, and business walks.
- Community Impact Officers participated in excess of 750 hours of community events.



▲ Safety Town



▲ Ability Works Fishing



▲ Easter Basket Drive Thru



▲ Station Tours

- Officers assisted OHgo, the Sandusky branch of the NAACP, Care and Share, Project Noelle, Serving our Seniors, Ability Works, Sandusky City Schools, and many other organizations throughout the year.
- Worked with Recreation to host the annual Touch-a-Truck event.
- Assisted Recreation with several youth events at our city parks, splash pads and the winter break camp.
- Officer Hill-Morton, in conjunction with Sandusky City Schools, led a highly successful youth flag football league. He and several Officers and Firefighters coached during the four-week program.
- Our community policing initiatives were recognized by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. The department was named the Agency of the month to honor our outstanding community engagement.
- Recognized as a Lexipol Connect Gold level agency for the third straight year, reflecting the department's dedication to sound policy management and training.

PARK WALKS

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1450 | 1440 | 1300 | 1615 | 1826 | 2338 |

NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1158 | 975 | 659 | 724 | 762 | 712 |

BUSINESS WALKS

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1881 | 1845 | 1758 | 1123 | 1064 | 1159 |





FIRE

- Fire department personnel generated 6,295 reports in 2022:
 - EMS – **5,364 incidents**
 - False Alarms – **264 incidents**
 - Fire – **137 incidents**
 - Public Service – **66 incidents**
 - Hazardous Conditions – **53 incidents**
 - Carbon Monoxide – **37 incidents**
 - Motor vehicle accidents – **36 incidents**
 - Water or stream leaks – **27 incidents**
 - Rescue – **24 incidents**
 - Overpressure/Rupture – **2 incidents**
 - Other – **285 incidents**
- The Sandusky Fire Department provided mutual aid 63 times while receiving automatic aid 18 times and mutual aid 28 times.
- Training Analysis:
 - Fire – **1,042.5 training hours**
 - Rescue – **266 training hours**
 - Fire Investigator – **16 training hours**
 - EMS – **1,007 training hours**
 - Fire Inspector – **199.25 training hours**
- Sandusky Fire Department participated in many community activities throughout 2022, totaling 432 hours of non-emergent community involvement. Community involvement included:
 - Extinguisher training for many area businesses
 - Public Safety education for multiple area elementary school classes
 - Delivery of 400 Senior meals for OHgo
 - Provided fire safety instruction for Touch-A-Truck and Kidsfest
 - Provided CPR and fire safety instruction at Sandusky Streets
 - Worked with Sandusky Police to coach Sandusky City Schools Elementary School flag football
 - Assisted Recreation to deliver Safety Town to 80 soon-to-be kindergartners
 - Provided ambulance coverage for 30 hours of area varsity football games
 - Assisted with food distribution at Father's Heart Church's food pantry
 - Participated in The Erie County Fire Chiefs annual silent parade and firefighter memorial
 - Participated in Erie County's annual Memorial Day parade
 - Worked with Sandusky Police to serve ice cream at the annual Sub Zero with a Hero event at Toft's Dairy
 - Participated in the Recovery Walk
 - Provided ambulance coverage during Sandusky City Schools 5k run
 - Delivered Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny to Washington Park and around city neighborhoods
 - Worked with The Commons of Providence to hold the annual Firefighters Shoe Fund Breakfast
 - Conducted 22 hours of local business tours for firefighter familiarization
 - Conducted 175 hours of fireworks inspections at Cedar Point and other City fireworks displays
 - The Firefighter Charity Fund purchased 135 pairs of shoes for fire victims and Erie County children

▼ Summer Break Camp



▼ Pumpkin Drop



▼ Ice training with USCG



▼ Safety Town Water Safety





DESTINATION CITY

As people choose to live in the same type of places as they visit, investing in projects that benefit both tourists and residents has become paramount.

ARTS & CULTURE



- The ArtBox program was initiated to fund local art in Sandusky neighborhoods utilizing the empty “canvases” found throughout the city (i.e. city owned traffic control boxes). The first completed project tells the story of Sandusky's Little Italy neighborhood at the intersection of Sycamore Line and Cleveland Road.
- The Rotating Mural program was initiated to highlight local and regional artists' work in several locations downtown. Two vinyl murals have been installed (207 E. Water Street and 20 E. Water Street). The remaining four will be installed in spring 2023.
- The City Hall Gallery's second iteration has been installed, showcasing local and regional artists' work following a theme.

- Arts commission members and staff supported the location selection and installation logistics for Lange Trust's sponsored Midwest Sculpture Initiative and “Over the Horizon of Lake Erie” balancing sculptures exhibit.



DESTINATION DOWNTOWN

- The schematic design for the Columbus Avenue Streetscape Project was completed for the transformation of Columbus Avenue to Sandusky's Most Vibrant Street. Construction documentation and project bidding will be completed in 2023.
 - Community Engagement: Building on the 798 community responses of the Downtown Plan survey (which Columbus Avenue was a large focus), the design process was shaped by 26 stakeholder engagement meetings, 434 public survey respondents, 150 participants at two public feedback events, multi-department staff collaboration, and feedback from four city boards/commissions.





- The Recreation Department is the hub for special event planning within the city limits for events that cater to residents, but also visitors the city.
 - Wightman-Wieber Kidsfest & Safety Fair
 - Ohio Bike Week
 - Party at the Pier Series featuring weekly Thursday concerts, including Sugar Hill Gang
 - Four Lange Trust Events on the Jackson Street Pier
 - Festival of Sail including the world's Largest Rubber Duck



▲ Ohio Bike Week



▲ Party at the Pier



▲ Festival of Sail

- The inaugural IRONMAN 70.3 Ohio event in Sandusky hosting over 1,500 participants.



- Touch-a-Truck had 43 community participants including City of Sandusky Sewer Department, three area fire departments, six area police departments, and one boat.

Gold Sponsors: Ohio Edison, Firelands Federal Credit Union, Buckeye Broadband, Family Health Services, Chelsi Allen Allstate Insurance;
Silver Sponsors: Firelands Health, Hurricane Transport; **Bronze Sponsor:** Monroe Prep.





DESTINATION CITY

RECREATION & WATERFRONT

- Shoreline Restoration Work at Shoreline Park provided improvements to the shoreline protection along the west finger of Shoreline Park, including a new pathway to the northern end of the finger, creating better access for fishing and recreation in this area. The project also aimed to reduce erosion and real property damage and loss from wave-action at this site.
- The Cedar Point Wetlands, Phase 1 project included installation of an armor stone breakwater from local quarries, natural wooden structures, turbidity curtains and other environmentally friendly materials to construct basins for placement of dredged material.
- Improvements to the slip next to the Jackson Street Pier consisted of new stop piles being placed to assist with the docking efforts of the Pelee Islander that operates out of this slip.
- Engaged over 560 youth through different programs and events including Spring Break Camp, community sailing, Make it SEW Easy, Midtown Supper Club, Summer Park Program, Winter Break Camp Out and Afterschool Center, TenderHeadz braiding instruction, to name a few.
- Engaged community members through programming, including the city's Juneteenth celebration, Community Collaboration Day, and Black Mental Health Matters.



- Leased the former Mills Elementary School from the Sandusky City School District for up to five years. The lease provides the City Recreation Division a new home to offer high-quality programming and activities to the Sandusky community.

- The Recreation Department continues to promote health and wellness for all ages through annual walking/running events in the city:
 - The RUNDUSKY Race Series had over 55 entrants who received hoodies for participating in four out of the nine events. Two grand prize winners were awarded entry to all 2023 races.
 - The Boy with the Boot 5k, in its fifth year, had over 120 participants. The event was added in 2018 as part of the city's bicentennial and will continue as an annual tradition to kick off the Stars & Stripes Community Celebration.
 - Dot the i, Block the M, in its fifth year, had over 110 participants. Now called The Race Before the Game, the Saturday-after-Thanksgiving event includes two courses that can only be completed on a street grid like Sandusky's.



- The Shelby Street Boat Launch played host to over a dozen fishing tournaments.
- Mills Creek Golf Course had over 16,500 rounds played in 2022, sold over 100 season passes, and hosted four SBC shootouts with over 60 participants per event.
- The City purchased of a 34-acre tract of land that the City had leased from the Catholic Diocese for many years. The land houses a large part of the city-operated Mills creek Golf Course. Acquisition of the land provides long-term cost savings and stability to the city's golf course operations and will allow the city to pursue grant funding for improvements for the entire course.
- Purchased a 4,150 square foot synthetic ice rink (approximately 2.5 times the size of last year's rented rink). The operation season was November through February 2023. The rink saw a nearly 50% increase in skaters over 2021.

CONNECTED CITY



Sandusky must be connected to the global economy and the region and must work to provide a more seamless connection from its neighborhoods to employment, Sandusky Bay and downtown.

CONNECTIVITY

- Installed a 4-Way Stop at the intersection of Barker and Broadway streets to improve walkability and pedestrian safety in the neighborhoods.



▲ Celebrating the awarding of the U.S. Department of Transportation's \$24 million RAISE Grant for the Route 6 Connectivity Project & Sandusky Bay Pathway.



- The Meigs Street Reconstruction and Multi-Use Path project installed just under a one-mile portion of the Sandusky Bay Pathway along Meigs Street from Water Street to Sycamore Street.
- Through the Local Street Resurfacing and CDBG Street Rehabilitation projects the City resurfaced 88 streets throughout the City, totaling over 8.1 centerline miles.
- The Sidewalk Repair and Replacement project included over 9,875 square feet of sidewalk and 127 linear feet of curb. This included several residential locations and improvements to heaved slabs within the northwest quadrant of Washington Park.



PUBLIC TRANSIT

- Worked with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to develop a Transit Development Plan for the Sandusky Transit System to identify areas for increased efficiencies and reducing costs while still maintaining a high level of service to transit riders.

RIDERSHIP

358,827

Fixed Route

(219,484 in 2021)

29,043

Dial-a-ride

(22,857 in 2021)





**240 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
www.cityofsandusky.com**

CITY COMMISSION

Commission President – Dick Brady
Commission Vice President – Dennis Murray, Jr.
Commissioner – Blake Harris
Commissioner – Mike Meinzer
Commissioner – Wes Poole
Commissioner – Steve Poggiali
Commissioner – Dave Waddington

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief – Mario D'Amico
Law Director – Brendan Heil
Interim Community Development Director –
Colleen Gilson
Public Works Director – Aaron Klein
City Commission Clerk – Cathy Myers
Police Chief – Jared Oliver
Finance Director – Michelle Reeder
Interim City Manager – John Orzech